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Statement submitted by Aube nouvelle pour la femme et le développement, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Sustainable development must be understood as development that meets the needs of present generations without jeopardizing those of future generations. To that end, it will have to meet five basic needs: food, housing, clothing, health and education. These five needs are a necessary but not sufficient condition, for there are other needs that may be grouped under the broad heading of democratic freedoms (freedom of expression, equality between the sexes and between ethnic groups etc.). Ideally, such development is expected to bring about an increase in income per dwelling, better housing, food, and public services such as drinking water and school construction and improved social services provided by the State and non-governmental organizations in an environment respectful of democratic freedoms. Therefore, sustainable development will be possible only with respect for the environment, relying first on the country or region's own resources; and any political system that enslaves humans, including dictatorship and racial discrimination, must be denounced.

Environmental protection:

(a.) Build technical and scientific capacity by effectively implementing the principle of technology transfer and equitably fulfilling commitments to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

(b) Training and awareness: leverage acquired knowledge, improve farming and wildlife management techniques, involve and empower local communities in the rational management of natural resources.

Anti-poverty:

The number of people living on a daily income of less than one US dollar.

- Support self-help initiatives for the disadvantaged;
- Build the autonomy of self-help organizations and seek to alter social structures that engender poverty;
- An anti-poverty strategy that supports self-help must be implemented in such a way that external aid is integrated into the local self-help process.

Health promotion and protection:

- Put in place a preventive programme to give communities the means of meeting their own needs by offering health services;
- Emphasize participation (protection of vulnerable groups, 30 to 70% improvement in their health indicators by the year 2025).

Promotion of gender equality:

- Eliminate constitutional, administrative, social and economic barriers that hinder women's full participation in public life; women should have opportunities equal to men's in all of their endeavours in society;
- Be proactive in opening up decision-making positions to women;
- Literacy, education, training: women need to know how to read and write, but they must also be encouraged to go into science and technology on the same footing as men.

Promotion of education and training:

- Promote training, with an emphasis on trades training;
- Overcome shortcomings in knowledge and skills.